

SOUTH BEND NEWS-TIMES

Morning—Evening—Sunday.

JOHN HENRY ZUVER, Editor.
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MAY 19, 1916.

JAPANESE GRIEVANCE REMOVED.

The senate has done well to change the Burnett immigration bill, eliminating such features as were objectionable to Japan. As the chairman of the immigration committee has explained, it is simply a question of "accommodating the phraseology of the present text to meet the agreement made between this country and Japan." It will make no change in the administration of the law. Japan has asked for no change. She has merely asked for a continuation of the "gentleman's agreement" by which our existing immigration policy can be maintained without offending the Japanese.

No new situation has arisen to require a change of that policy. Japan has lived up to her agreement, and the Japanese population in our Pacific coast states has diminished in recent years instead of increasing. If the tide should turn, and Japan should relax her vigilant cooperation in keeping her laborers out of the United States, we could quickly enact the necessary legislation to bar them out absolutely.

Congress properly recognizes, after considerable lecturing on the subject, that this would be a particularly bad time to give the Japanese jingoism and militarism any new cause for grievance against us, and that it is a particularly good time to be polite to Japan in any matter not prejudicing our basic rights and interests.

PREPARE TO PROVE YOUR APEHOOD.

A preparedness parade in South Bend—no can't help, even if it was proposed by the Rotary club, is endorsed by the mayor, and is to be further promoted by the Chamber of Commerce—can be nothing more nor less than a practical demonstration, in proportion to its success, of our monkeyhood.

If Charles Darwin were living today, or if the spirits of the dead have any intelligence of the conduct of the living, he might find right here in America the "missing link" that puzzled him so completely in his evolutionary philosophy. If there is anything in the law of heredity, the human disposition toward mimicry, especially in the line of great display, points us through our ancestry back to the ape, just as truly as certain present-day activities to fight can claim inheritance from men who soldiered in the rebellion or the revolution.

The great powers of Europe are engaged in a great war. They have trotted out their monster armies, their mighty guns, their cunning submarines, aircraft and cussedness. Forthwith we get excited, and while pretending a great love of peace, take it into our heads that because Europe was better prepared for war than we are, we need more preparedness in order to be in style. Our women have borrowed their styles from Paris, we men from London, and all of us our drugs from Berlin, until with these countries at war we think we are out of fashion with our peacefulness, and, even if we don't fight, we at least want to be prepared to.

And so New York puts on a preparedness parade and Chicago begins to talk about it, and South Bend takes it into its head that perhaps we can put one over on them both. We don't propose to let these great metropolises outdo us in demonstrating the faculty of imitation. We say that what we want is preparedness for peace, but the fact of the matter is we don't know what we want except to know that we want to be doing something that smells of gore, and from which we can imagine ourselves buckled up to the fashions of Europe. It is the psychological effect that the European war has had upon our faculties of imitation, and nothing more.

In science, facts talk, not theories. Science is fact. Theories are guesswork. Philosophy is where science and theory lock horns. The European war is a fact indisputable. For years, even decades, the triple and entente allies had been amassing vast armies and enlarging their navies—"precautionary measures to enforce peace." The assurances, therefore, theoretically evolved, that a great army and navy are a surety against war, are proven scientifically false. The fact that they did not in the case of the European belligerents, proves that they may not, and destroys any assurance that they certainly will.

An army and navy, little or great, are chips on the shoulder of the nation that maintains them. To make peace secure as possible, with honor and dignity, a nation needs to so act—not merely talk—as to minimize risks of war. Moral heroism versus military heroism becomes the issue—a choice between brute force and moral law—whether right makes might or might might.

The old world's disrespect for the United States today, if there be such disrespect, is one of jealousy and envy rather than of contempt. Europeans on both sides of the bloody divide may think they despise us for what they fancy to be our spinelessness, but down deep in their heart of hearts they are complimenting us for refraining from becoming their dupes. They are finding fault with us, not for minding our own business, but for not minding theirs—in the way they would have us.

England is saying, "Join us against Germany; yes, you are welcome. We are the richest of the allies."

and are expected to do the financing, but you are rich also and contribute half as much as we—say about fifteen million a day, which, with twenty-five or fifty thousand soldiers, would be a great help."

Of course, the United States, if forced to fight Germany, would do it as independently as possible, without entering into any "entangling alliances," but what Britain is synthetically quoted as saying bespeaks what would be the practical result.

Indeed, yes, we have been insulted by the Teutonic submarine methods, violations of international law and the rights of humanity, but the Teutons do not stand alone.

The only reason that the entente allies are not doing the self-same thing is that they haven't the submarines to do it with, for proof of which, take the dropping of explosives from air machines upon non-combatants in their homes.

Such warfare was never heard of before. It is just as illegal and even more unjust than submarine warfare, for which a few may be compelled to travel, many cannot leave their habitations—and all belligerents have used their air machines against non-combatants. A principle is a principle, and just as vital on the land as on the sea.

We are mainly less concerned because none of these explosives and missiles have fallen on Americans—but they seem to have been a part of Europe's preparedness just the same. Frankly, it is our opinion, at least, and little as it may amount to, that half the American people who are yelling for preparedness are merely yelling it because it is in the air, and without any conception whatever of what they would prepare for.

Congress is proceeding sanely with a preparedness program. It may need a little prodding up now and then, but parades are more appealing to the populace than to statesmen of sense. The preparedness parade movement is merely another of those "preparedness for profit" propagandas calculated to take the people off their feet—a politico-financial episode designed to make fools of "some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time," knowing full well that it can't "fool all the people all of the time."

If South Bend must have a parade, let us have an Americanization parade: something that will stand for "America First" and not for an imitation of Europe.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Nearly all the nations of Europe have been drawn into the vortex of war. Even several nations, remote from the scene of the original conflict, nations which have not been able to participate actively on the western front, or the eastern front, or even use their battle-ships in the conflict, have been drawn in, through treaties and agreements, or through mistakes of statesmanship.

The greatest statesmen of the world have realized that in these days of world upheaval there has been a danger far greater than the actual loss of life and property that is now shocking all civilized nations. The danger has been that the entire world, instead of half of it, might become involved; that international law might be wiped out in a day, and that civilization itself might be uprooted, no great nation remaining at peace to voice the protest against war-madness.

In the German note of May 5, announcing the abandonment of the submarine methods against which the United States government protested, the following paragraph appears:

"If the German Government nevertheless is resolved to go to the utmost limit to concessions, it has been guided not alone by the friendship connecting the two great nations for over one hundred years, but also by the thought of the great doom which threatens the entire civilized world, should the cruel and sanguinary war be extended and prolonged."

All the belligerents, with their passion at white heat, nevertheless have recognized the part that America has played in upholding international law, protecting the rights of neutrals and non-combatants, and confining the limits of the raging conflict.

Since July, 1914, the people of the United States have lived in peace and prosperity with the war surrounding them, and yet with the conscious knowledge that there has been in the white house a man who, while protecting the nation's honor and upholding its dignity, nevertheless retained for the country its peaceful leverage upon war-ridden Europe.

The conduct of President Wilson throughout the European war has won him not merely the respect of Europe, but the commendations of the people of the United States of all shades of political opinion. There has been no rashness nor timidity. The ship of state has been steered with deftness and sureness. The best traditions of American statesmanship have been upheld by Woodrow Wilson in the most trying time in the world's history.

"ROOTING FOR CHARLEY."

Incident to the journalistic support that Indiana's "favorite son" is receiving locally for the republican nomination for the presidency—somewhat repudied in anticipation of an ambassadorship to the Sulu Islands or to Siam, already gold-plated, and ready to be doled out to the editor, Collier's Weekly offers some interesting comment. The comment, we should state, however, is not exclusively applicable to the local situation, but takes in the Fairbanks campaign that is puzzling and amusing delegates the country over. It quotes one letter sent to a delegate who says he "got more laughs" out of it than any of the other tactful approaches that have been made to him. This is the letter:

Jeffersonville, Ind., April 19, 1916.

I note, with pleasure, your selection as delegate to the republican national convention.

May I call your attention to the candidacy of the Hon. Charles Warren Fairbanks of the state of Indiana, whose name will be presented for the republican presidential nomination?

Mr. Fairbanks has had a very extensive experience in business as well as in the political issues of the day, which fits him for the great subjects that confront the incoming administration. We need, at this time, a conservative candidate who is not radical on any subject; one who can command the respect of the thinking American citizens, and whose every act will be done for the best interests of our country and protecting American lives and property, both at home and abroad.

NEWTON H. MYERS.

"One feels," says Collier's, "that this is exactly the sort of letter that would have been sent out by a Fairbanks booster." Besides it is so Tribuneque that we would suggest to our neighbor that he find out, for like as not the Jeffersonville man has been promised a Sulu or a Siam post also.

THE MELTING POT

FILLED BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

RESTFUL NATURE.

Dame Nature is a splendid queen, a hummer and a beauty. She loves to see the soul of man seduced from daily duty. She clothes herself in verdant films through which her pulse is thrilling;

She woe him with the air of one who's perilously willing. She cries: "A man like you, of youth, discretion and discernment. Should quit your job in joyous and indefinite adjournment."

But Nature is a busy dear who doesn't always show it. Like many women, she doesn't let the neighbors know it. She pumps the sap from underground to manufacture berries; She feeds a flock of squirrels and birds on hazelnuts and cherries; She does the maximum of work, the minimum of cooing. And anytime you visit her you'll find there's something doing.

Our literary artisans who labor in the cities Can cover lots of paper with their sentimental ditties Concerning Madame Nature's rest from toil and tribulation, And they have given her a very siothful reputation; But these who think that Nature will permit them to be idle, Are harboring a theory extremely suicidal.

ARTHUR BROOKS BAKER.

Nothing to burglarize. A baby's bank.

The Owen bill introduced in the senate is a step in the right direction. It would prohibit candidates from giving out campaign cigars.

The shades of hades may have some stench That is far worse than any trench. But take it from us it's not as bad As some of the smokes our candidates had.

Speaking of how one thing brings another, we heard the dramatic critic speaking of a show, "Certainly." It was a new one and had us guessing until we remembered there was one here called "Excuse Me."

Charley Chaplin is leading in our straw ballot contest. One admirer says Charlie could fall from one crisis to another and never hurt himself.

The m. w. o. a. l. m. in the back room persisted in making our line yesterday read "a chunk of burned mind." In stead of "burned mud." We intended no criticism, local or foreign.

Mexican citizens refused to kill two Americans. How will the jingo editors explain this?

We see where the little old Ford is rambling right along. The 25-cylinder Roosevelt finished a bad third in Pennsylvania.

COBB GETS FOUR HITS AND LOTS OF APPLAUSE.

The speeding ball Was seen to fall Within his mit— It was no hit.

ALL IN THE HEAD. "Girl with bashful suitor takes leap year chance."

Webster had nothing on the L. O. when it comes to new words. The latest is "snay" for "snap."

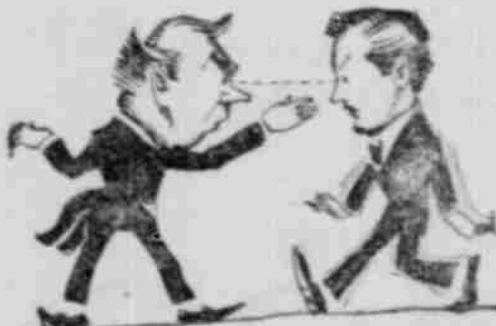
Statesmen Great and Near-Great

BY FRED KELLY

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Now that Sen. Warren G. Harding is billed to step to the front of the stage and make the keynote speech at the republican national convention next month, there is no use delaying any longer the account of Harding's first public appearance on any stage.

A person who announced himself as a marvelous world renowned hypnotist came to Harding's native town in Ohio for a series of performances. He offered a prize for the member of his audience who should come upon the stage and be mesmerized more successfully than any of the others.

Young Warren G. Harding promptly stepped forward and the professor undertook to place him under the hypnotic influence. The influence did not have any great actual effect on Warren, but rather than spoil the show he did all the amusing caprices that were requested of him. He entered into the gay spirit of the thing so well that he was a real hit. An enthusiastic crowd, representing the youth, beauty and chivalry of the little community gave him an ovation such as was due a future statesman on his initial appearance. And the professor unhesitatingly awarded him the prize, consisting of two silver dollars.



"Only," explained the professor in making the award, "I will not give you the money until tomorrow night. Because you are such a good subject that I shall want to use you again at that time. At the close of the performance tomorrow I shall pay you not only \$2, but \$4." Warren Harding was charmed at this recognition of his artistic triumph, and was on hand promptly

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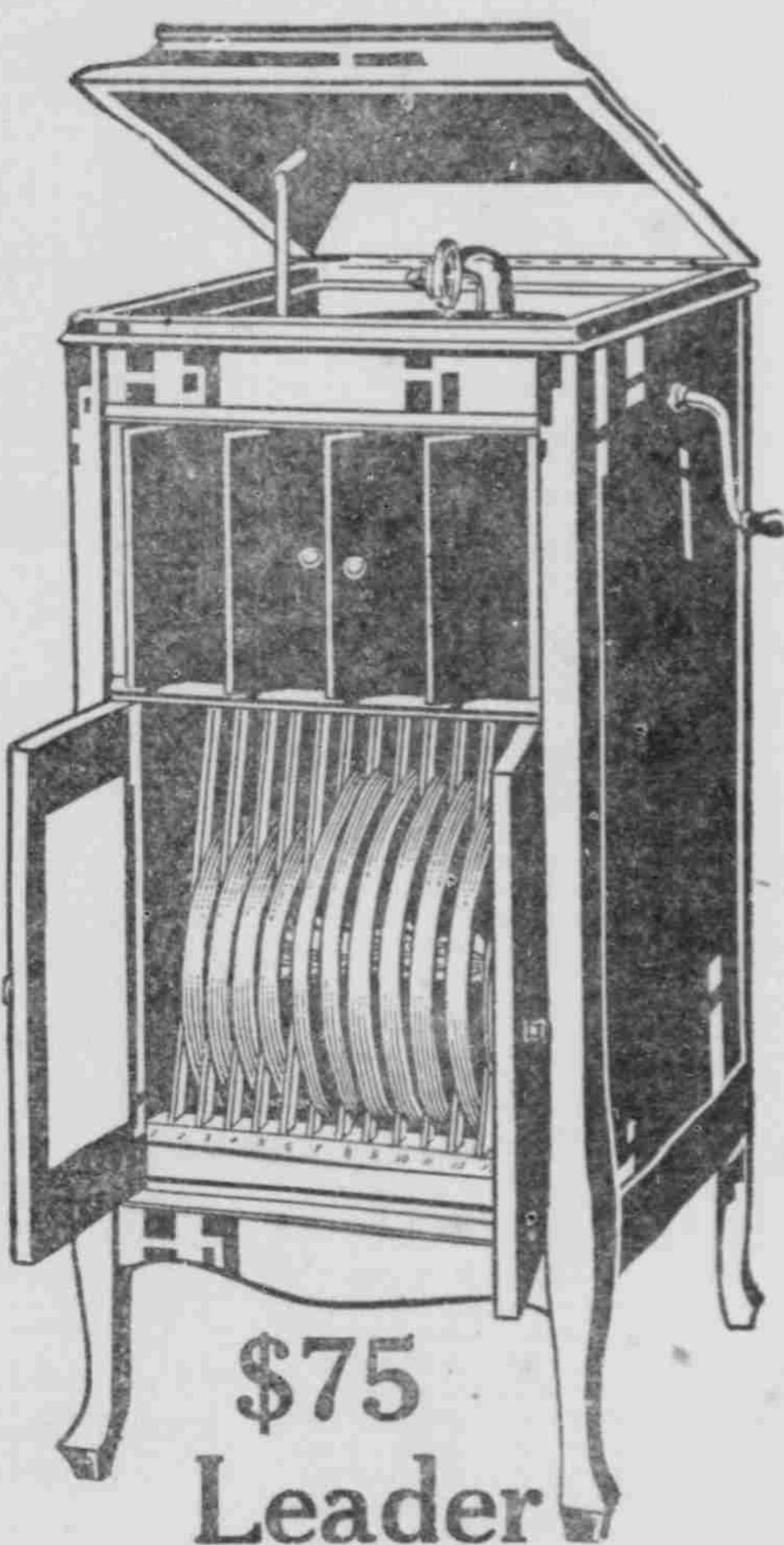
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